

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5 with the following replacement paragraph:

This goal is ~~met~~ met according to the ~~claims~~ following embodiments. ~~Claim~~ Embodiment 1 is directed to specific nucleic acids which code for a polypeptide comprising envisaged features. ~~Claim~~ Embodiment 2 embraces the polypeptides themselves. ~~Claim~~ Embodiments 3 and 4 disclose hosts comprising the nucleic acids of the invention or special primers or probes for their production via PCR. Moreover, ~~claim~~ embodiment 5 specifies a process for the production of further improved polypeptides of the inventions, whereas claim 6 protects the thus produced polypeptides and nucleic acids, respectively. ~~Claim~~ Embodiments 7 and 8 are directed to special uses and ~~claim~~ embodiment 9 embraces a process for the production of amino acids. Likewise ~~claim~~ embodiments 10 and 11 provide special vectors and micro-organisms.

Please insert the following paragraph after the end of the replacement paragraph mentioned above, i.e., after the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 depicts plasmid pECKA.

Fig. 2 depicts plasmid pECKA/ilvBNC.